

new theories which are not practically beneficial. There is no question, however, of the advance made in clinical study aided by microscopical investigation. Much that a few years ago was obscure and unintelligible has been cleared up; and results can now be predicted with certainty, which before could only have been asserted at the hazard of the practitioner's reputation. Clinical study is the chief source of instruction; the microscope a most efficient and necessary aid. The author has enjoyed rare advantages in being attached to an institution like the Meath Hospital, and is likely to worthily fill the place once held by such great names as Crampton and Graves, whose connection with that institution created a new era in clinical observation.

The work before us consists of eighteen chapters on cancer and the tumours analogous to it. The author in his preface does not claim for it perfection. Much is necessarily omitted; other facts have been left out through circumstances beyond his control, but which we trust he will be spared to record in a further edition.

The first chapter is on the various forms of cell growth.

"The cancer-cell, first insisted on as a special element of cancer by Lébert, and by him considered as a cell *sui generis*, is now to be regarded as a modified lymph-cell. Monstrously altered in size, it would be difficult to recognise its origin were it not that in other infiltrating growths we find cells as a medium type between it and the cell of healthy tissue. Thus in the simple fibroid tumour, the constituent cells are but little removed in size and shape from the healthy type; their peculiarity takes the direction of an arrested development. Again, in the fibrinous tumour we find cells of a similar character, with an imperfect tendency to development; in the fibrous tumour the cells acquire a complete development into fibres; in those forms of tumour known as fibro-plastic, which, in fact, are fibrous or fibroid tumours, with a tendency to destructive action like cancer, but less intense, the cells are larger and caudate, stopping short of cancer as to size, and of fibre-cell proper as to development. Then again, in acute cancer, the cells are small compared with those of scirrhous or chronic cancer; while in the latter there is, as a rule, more attempt at caudate development. Now, though the extremes of this chain may be very unlike, yet the resemblance can be traced up from one link to another, and the points of difference can be satisfactorily associated with differences in the rate and power of development. These, again, have a practical connection with the clinical features of each case; and, combined with a proper study of the latter, lead to an accuracy and certainty of practice formerly not attainable without a life-long and empirically-founded experience. As a general expression of these facts, I have